

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 COPENH 01539 311732Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SWF-02 SIL-01 DRC-01 /181 W  
----- 105165

R 311631Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9098

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT SWINGS TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 1382

SUMMARY: IN AFTERMATH OF THE MID-MAY GOVERNMENT CRISIS, FOCUS OF POLITICAL ATTENTION HAS TURNED TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND TO STRUGGLE OF THE THREE "LABOR" PARTIES FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THAT MOVEMENT. MASS POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, INSTIGATED BY THE COMMUNIST (DKP) AND PEOPLES SOCIALIST (SF) "CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE" GROUP, CONSTITUTED A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT'S LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT, EXERCISED THROUGH THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO). NEXT FEW WEEKS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COPENH 01539 311732Z

PROMISE TO BE FILLED WITH STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS  
AS THIS CONFRONTATION IS PLAYED OUT. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-INFLATION TAX PACKAGE SAFELY ADOPTED (COPENHAGEN 1356), THE PARLIAMENTARY ASPECT OF THE CRISIS HAS BEEN RESOLVED. POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT CHRISTIANSBORG HAS ACCORDINGLY SLOWED TO THE POINT OF STAGNATION; ONLY ITEM OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE CURRENTLY UNDER DEBATE IS MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY (COPENHAGEN 1415.) THE OTHER ASPECT OF RECENT CRISIS - CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS, PEOPLES SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FOR POLITICAL POWER IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT - IS STILL AN UNRESOLVED, CRITICAL ISSUE.

2. MASS DEMONSTRATIONS TWO WEEKS AGO WERE DIRECT CHALLENGE TO THE LO LEADERSHIP. POLICY INITIALLY ADOPTED BY LO CHAIRMAN THOMAS NIELSEN AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERSHIP, TO BRAND THE DEMONSTRATIONS AS "COMMUNIST HYSTERIA" AND TO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE, IN EFFECT PLACED LEADERSHIP OF LABOR MOVEMENT FOR A FEW DAYS IN HANDS OF "CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE" GROUP, DOMINATED BY DKP AND SF ACTIVITIES. THIS POLICY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECOGNIZED AS A MISTAKE AND LO HAS SHIFTED GROUND FOR THE COMING ROUND - IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH THE "SPONTANEOUS FEELINGS" OF THE WORKERS TO THE INEQUITABLE TAX MEASURES PASSED BY THE "BLACK COALITION", THAT IS, THE NON-SOCIALIST BLOC, INCLUDING GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, WHICH SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S TAX PACKAGE.

3. AFTER PASSAGE OF THE TAX LEGISLATION, CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVE REJECTED DEMANDS OF ENTHUSIASTS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE AND OPTED INSTEAD FOR MORE REALISTIC DEMAND OF A TWO KRONER (34 CENTS) PER HOUR WAGE INCREASE TO COMPENSATE FOR NEW TAXES. IT ANNOUNCED THAT LEADERS OF THE GROUP WOULD CONTACT LOCAL UNIONS WHICH HAD COOPERATED WITH THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN ATTEMPT TO CONVENE LATER THIS SUMMER A NATION-WIDE TRADE UNION MEETING TO AGREE UPON TACTICS IN FIGHT FOR TWO-KRONER INCREASE. IT HAS THUS DIRECTLY CHALLENGED LO'S STRUCTURAL CONTROL OVER THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COPENH 01539 311732Z

4. BEHIND THE CURRENT STRUGGLE IS FACT THAT DANISH WORKING CLASS IS, AS RESULT OF RECENT CRISIS, IN A STATE OF POLITICAL FLUIDITY. IN LAST DECEMBER'S ELECTION, THOUSANDS OF WORKERS VOTED FOR GLISTRUP IN PROTEST AGAINST HIGH TAXES. THOSE VOTERS, JOLTED BY GLISTRUP'S VOTING FOR THE TAX INCREASES, NOW SEEM TO BE RETURNING TO THE LABOR PARTIES. POLL TAKEN ON MAY 15 SHOWED THE DKP, WHICH NORMALLY CRAWLS THREE TO FOUR PER CENT POPULAR SUPPORT, COLLECTING TEN PER CENT AS AN

IMMEDIATE, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY TEMPORARY, RESULT OF ITS STRONG STAND AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SDP WAS FACED WITH A DIFFICULT TACTICAL CHOICE. IT COULD CONTINUE TO ATTACK "CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE" DIRECTLY, OR IT COULD COMPETE FOR THE RETURNEES FROM GLISTRUP'S PROGRESS PARTY BY IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH THE LEFTIST-STIMULATED TAX PROTEST. IT HAS CHOSEN THE LATTER OPTION.

6. THE ISSUE AS PRESENT IS WHETHER UNIONS BEHIND THE DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD BE FINED BY LABOR COURT FOR EXCEEDING TWO-DAY LIMIT FOR DEMONSTRATION STRIKES. EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION (DA) IS DEMANDING STRINGENT APPLICATION OF THIS PROVISION OF THE NEW MAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN DANISH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT. LO, IN TURN, HAS PUBLICLY DEFENDED THE UNIONS IN QUESTION, THAT IS, THE "CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE" GROUP, ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY LO LEADERS ARE NOT UNHAPPY THAT CHARGES ARE BEING BROUGHT AGAINST SOME, AT LEAST, OF THESE UNIONS.

7. IF THE EMPLOYERS BRING THE CASES TO COURT, THE "CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE" HAS PROMISED WIDE-SPREAD STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SHIPYARDS AND METAL-WORKING INDUSTRIES WHERE THEIR STENGTH IS CONCENTRATED. CMING SUMMER SEASON PROMISES THEREFORE TO BE AS UNSTABLE ONE ON THE LABOR FRONT.  
CROWE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, WAGES, TAX REFORMS, LABOR STRIKES, CIVIL DISORDERS, LABOR UNIONS, TAX CHANGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974COPENH01539  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740138-0767  
**From:** COPENHAGEN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974054/aaaaadeq.tel  
**Line Count:** 143  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** COPENHAGEN 1382  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT SWINGS TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, DA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005